United Nations A/72/745–S/2018/101

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
14 February 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-second session
Agenda item 35
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 7 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on the ratification by the Russian State Duma of a so-called agreement on the incorporation of illegal military units of the occupied Tskhinvali region into the armed forces of the Russian Federation, dated 24 January 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kaha **Imnadze**
Permanent Representative

18-02341 (E) 160218

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Annex to the identical letters dated 7 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

24 January 2018

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia condemns the ratification by the Russian State Duma of so-called agreement on incorporation of illegal military units of the occupied Tskhinvali region into the armed forces of the Russian Federation, which took place on 24 January 2018.

This represents another unlawful step by the Russian Federation towards factual annexation of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia, in full disregard for the fundamental norms and principles of international law.

Through integration of Georgia's occupied regions into the military system of the Russian Federation, Moscow blatantly violates the EU mediated 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement. This is all the more disturbing that the Russian Federation still declines to take and respect the commitment on non-use of force and deliberately impedes the establishment of international security arrangements on the ground. By this kind of provocative steps the Russian Federation attempts to hamper the peaceful conflict resolution and potential progress in the Geneva International Discussions. Moreover, Russia's actions undermine European security architecture and are directed towards destabilization of situation in a wider region.

We call upon the Russian Federation to cease its provocations, to comply with its international obligations and implement all provisions of the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement, including the withdrawal of its military forces from Georgian territory.

We appeal also to the international community to duly assess Russia's far-reaching aggressive policy and take the effective measures in order to counter the ongoing illegal processes in Georgia's occupied territories.